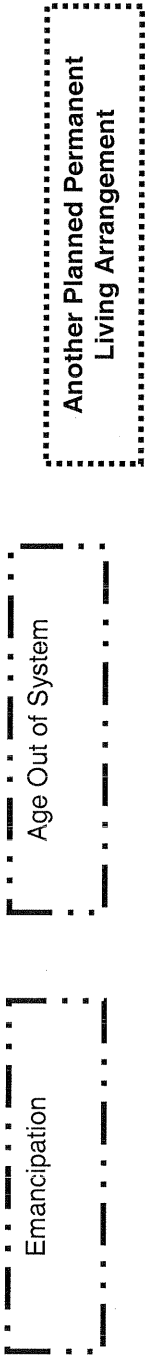


*Other outcomes that are not preferred and often leave a child with no family support system.*



**Other Relevant statutes:**

22 M.R.S.A. §4005-D (6) – Notification of Hearings  
22 M.R.S.A. §4005-D – Access to proceedings  
22 M.R.S.A §4015- Abrogation of certain privileges  
25 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*- Indian Child Welfare Act

**Definitions:**

**Family Team Meetings** (FTM) are often held to help inform caregivers and youth. These meetings will discuss the permanency options. During FTMs, the caseworker may talk about reunification, adoption, permanency guardianship, and other options. FTMs can be used to ask questions and look at what supports are available. A parent or current caregiver of a child in foster care has a right to call a Family Team Meeting and a right to present at court hearings related to the child.

**Rehabilitation and Reunification** is the process of developing a written rehabilitation and reunification plan with the participation of the parents that clarifies the problems that present risk of harm to the child, services needed to address those problems, provisions to ensure safety of the child while the parent engages in services, measurements of progress made, and visitation that protects/supports the child's physical and emotional well-being.

**Court Status: 22MRSA §4005-D** A relative may petition the court for status to participate in hearings.

**An interested person** may attend court proceedings.

**A participant** has the right to attend court and be heard.

**An intervenor** has same rights as party to case and may advocate for a particular decision.

**Types of Child Protective Hearings:**

**PPO: Preliminary Protection Order:** Immediate risk of serious harm. Affidavit of facts presented to judge who can order child immediately removed from the home into foster care.

**C-1: Summary Hearing:** a hearing held after 7 days but within 14 days of the PPO to allow all parties to present facts to the judge for a decision if the child will remain in foster care.

**C-2: Jeopardy Hearing:** is a hearing held on the *child protection petition*. The court decides if the child is in jeopardy (put in danger). If the District Court decides that the child is in jeopardy the court may place the child in full custody of the Department of Health and Human Services. If the District Court decides that the child is not in jeopardy then full custody of the child returns to the parent. **Subject to Appeal.**

**Judicial Review:** Court review that looks at the progress of the parents and the youth. There must be a Judicial Review at least every 6 months. At least every 12 months, the judicial review must identify the permanent plan or progress in the permanent plan.

**Permanency Planning Hearing:** a hearing held within 12 months of the child entering foster care. The District Court must decide the permanent plan for the child as either reunification, adoption, guardianship (permanency or probate), or placement with a fit or willing relative.

**Cease Reunification:** A court decision that relieves the Department of the obligation to provide reunification services to a parent for the purpose of the child returning to their biological parent's home. The court may make this decision based on the biological parent's failure to do what was required of them to make it safe for the child to go home; on the existence of an aggravating factor; or on reunification being inconsistent with the child's permanent plan.

**C-3: Termination of Parental Rights (TPR):** The court has terminated the parental rights of the child. **Subject to Appeal.** The child is legally free for adoption. (TPR is not required for Permanency Guardianship).

**Child Welfare Voluntary Status:**

**V-2 Voluntary:** Children are placed in the Department's care through a voluntary agreement between the Department and the parent; parents keep custody.

**V-9** Young adults between 18 and 21 agree to be in the Department's extended care program. They are provided services to continue their education or establish independent status.

**Legal Terms:**

**Disposition:** This is the decision about where the youth should live (such as in state custody). It also states what the parents, DHHS and the youth must do to change the problems.

**Guardian Ad Litem (GAL):** A lawyer or a trained adult volunteer, (CASA). They are appointed by the court to independently study, represent, and protect the best interests of a youth in child protection cases and make recommendations to the court.